

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035274

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PORC, OAS

SUBJECT: URUGUAYAN AMBASSADOR TO OAS MAKES STATEMENT ON
REJECTION OF GOU OFFER OF SITE

1. AFTER ROUTINE REPORT TO FEBRUARY 8 OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL
OF GENERAL COMMITTEE'S JANUARY 31 REJECTION OF URUGUAYAN
OFFER OF SITE FOR VIII OASGA, URUGUAYAN AMBASSADOR ROCA
READ STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF HIS GOVERNMENT WHICH IS SET
FORTH IN PARAGRAPH 3.

2. ONLY REACTION IN COUNCIL WAS BY VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR
JOSE MARIA MACHIN, WHO FELT OBLIGED TO RESTATE THE FOUR
BASIC REASONS SET FORTH AT JANUARY 31 MEETING FOR HIS
COUNTRY'S VOTE AGAINST URUGUAYAN OFFER:

(A) OFFER WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED BECAUSE ITS STATED
OBJECTIVE WAS TO LET PARTICIPANTS SEE FOR THEMSELVES THE
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REALITY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN URUGUAY. THIS
CONSTITUTED AN EFFORT TO SUPPLANT THE IAHRC WHICH SHOULD
PERFORM THIS TASK. (B) BY GOU'S OWN ADMISSION, SECURITY
SITUATION IN URUGUAY SUCH THAT OAS SHOULD HAVE SERIOUS
MISGIVINGS ABOUT HOLDING THE MEETING THERE. (C) GOU REFUSES
TO MAINTAIN NORMAL RELATIONS WITH IAHRC, AN IMPORTANT OAS

ORGAN; AND (D) VENEZUELA'S CERTITUDE THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE
CONSISTENTLY VIOLATED IN URUGUAY.

3. ON EXPRESS INSTRUCTIONS FROM MY GOVERNMENT I WOULD LIKE
TO MAKE, THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT REFERRING TO THE DECISION
REACHED IN THE GENERAL COMMITTEE ON JANUARY 31.

URUGUAY HAS ALWAYS LENT ITS COOPERATION AND SUPPORT TO
THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM AND TO THIS ORGANIZATION. ITS
DEDICATION TO AMERICANISM, ITS BELIEF IN THE EXISTENCE OF
TRUE INTER-AMERICAN SOLIDARITY HAS MADE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION
IN THE WORK OF THE OAS A PERMANENT FEATURE (OF ITS FOREIGN
POLICY). IN RECENT YEARS URUGUAY HAS BEEN IN THE VANGUARD
OF EFFORTS AIMED AT RESTRUCTURING THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM.
THIS TOOK PLACE FIRST IN THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE CREATED FOR
THIS PURPOSE, AND LATER IN THE PERMANENT COUNCIL. URUGUAY
HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND IS A BELIEVER IN THE OAS, IN ITS PRINCIPLES,
ITS OBJECTIVES, ITS PURPOSES AND OF THE FUNDAMENTAL
ROLE THAT IT SHOULD CARRY OUT IN HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS.

IN THIS CONTEXT THE OFFER TO PROVIDE A SITE FOR THE
MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS OR FOR ANY OF ITS
ORGANS MEANS FOR MY COUNTRY IN ADDITION TO AN HONOR AND A
RIGHT, A PUBLIC ACT OF FAITH IN THE VARIOUS TIES WHICH BIND
US, IN THE IDEALS THAT MAKE UP THE ORGANIZATION, AND IN THE
FATE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM. SUCH WAS THE FIRST AND
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MAIN PURPOSE OF THE OFFER WHICH THE GENERAL COMMITTEE
REJECTED.

URUGUAY ALSO MADE THE OFFER TO BE HOST FOR THE NEXT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE EXERCISE OF A LEGITIMATE RIGHT AND
IN FULFILLMENT OF A MORAL IMPERATIVE TO PERMIT ALL SISTER
REPUBLICS, THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS, ADVISORS, ORGANS AND
EMPLOYEES OF THE OAS, JOURNALISTS, ETC. TO LEARN THE TRUTH
ABOUT URUGUAY FROM EVERY POINT OF VIEW.

THE SISTER COUNTRIES THAT ABSTAINED AND THOSE WHO VOTED
AGAINST THIS OFFER ALSO DID IT IN A LEGITIMATE EXERCISE OF
THEIR OWN RIGHTS. MY GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS THIS AND
RESPECTS IT, BUT WE ALSO DEPLORE THAT THEY HAVE LOST THIS
OPPORTUNITY.

THUS, I WANT TO STATE THAT WITH THE DECISION AND THE
REASONS ARGUED BY SOME MEMBER STATES WHO CONTRIBUTED TO
ADOPTING IT, A LAMENTABLE AS WELL AS DANGEROUS PRECEDENT WAS
SET: TO SUBORDINATE THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN OFFER OF A SITE TO
CIRCUMSTANTIAL POLITICAL CONDITIONS THAT HAVE NOTHING TO

DO, UNDER THE RULES, WITH THE OFFER ITSELF.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO STATE THAT THE ALLEDGED REASONS FOR VOTING CLEARLY ENTAILED AN INTERVENTION INTO THE DOMESTIC JURISDICTION OF MY COUNTRY AND A CLEAR DISREGARD OF THE TENOR OF ARTICLES 18 AND 19 OF THE CHARTER OF THE OAS ACCORDING TO WHICH QUOTE NO STATE OR GROUP OF STATES HAS THE RIGHT TO INTERVENE, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER IN THE INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANY OTHER STATE UNQUOTE AND QUOTE NO STATE MAY USE OR ENCOURAGE THE USE OF COERCIVE MEASURES OF AN ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL CHARACTER IN ORDER TO FORCE THE SOVERIGN WILL OF ANOTHER STATE AND OBTAIN FROM IT ADVANTAGES OF ANY KIND. UNQUOTE .

MR. PRESIDENT, MY GOVERNMENT WISHES TO BE PARTICULARLY
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CLEAR IN REGARD TO ITS POSITION ON THE IAHR. URUGUAY HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED AND STILL SUPPORTS THE EXISTENCE AND OPERATION OF THAT BODY OF THE ORGANIZATION IN KEEPING WITH THE CURRENT NORMS GOVERNING IT. THIS FRANK AND DETERMINED ATTITUDE WAS RECENTLY EXPRESSED AT THE 5TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHEN THE PROGRAM/ BUDGET FOR 1978-79 WAS CONSIDERED.

THIS SWEEPING RECOGNITION OF ITS EXISTENCE AND THE VALUE OF ITS WORK CANNOT BE CONFUSED NOR IN ANY WAY MEASURED AGAINST THE IRREGULAR AND PARTIAL, CONCRETE BEHAVIOR OF THE IAHR TOWARD URUGUAY.

FOR THE REASONS EXPRESSED, MY GOVERNMENT CANNOT ACCEPT AND REJECTS ENERGETICALLY THE EXPLANATION OF VOTES WHICH I REFERRED TO THAT GO AGAINST THE PRINCIPLES AND BASIC DISPOSITIONS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM.

FINALLY, MR. PRESIDENT, I WOULD LIKE TO REAFFIRM MY COUNTRY'S TRADITIONAL AND INVARIABLE RESPECT TO THE RIGHTS AND BASIC FREEDOMS OF MAN WHICH ARE ONLY LIMITED BY THE RIGHTS OF OTHER MEN, THE SECURITY OF ALL AND THE JUST NEEDS OF THE GENERAL WELFARE AND DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT (ARTICLE XXVIII OF THE AMERICAN DECLARATION OF THE DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF MAN) VANCE

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